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Concentration, however, is not necessarily a literal collection of the entire force. "The essential underlying idea is that of mutual support", and, he says, "This consideration, in my judgment, absolutely forbids the division of the present fleet of the United States between the two principal coasts". The halves would then be beyond supporting distance. Russia divided its fleet in the late war, between Port Arthur and the Baltic, which permitted Japan, whose fleet was inferior to Russia's whole, to defeat it in detail.

In discussing the protection afforded by a concentrated superior fleet he states that, "So long as the British fleet can maintain and assert superiority in the North Sea and around the British Islands, the entire Imperial system stands secure." This does not mean that an inferior navy may not by successful evasion and subsequent surprise seize positions in distant parts of the world, as the French did when in 1756 they captured Minorca. "The impulse to try to protect every point can only be overcome by sound principles." At the time of our hostilities with Spain, the Navy Department was besieged with applications for local protection. The detention of the Flying Squadron on the North Atlantic coast which could have been better employed in blockade and dispatch duty may be considered a concession to this alarm—but he says, "In a military sense, as affecting ultimate national safety and victory, it will not matter if one coast suffer raid, blockade, bombardment, or capture, if meanwhile the enemy's fleet be destroyed—with such destruction every other loss is retrievable, *provided* the country, which is not willing to make military preparation beforehand, proves willing to endure the burden of such exertions as may be necessary to reduce to submission an invader whose communications and retreat are both cut off."

Regarding the influence of political questions on naval strategy, while he says they "are primarily the concern of statesmen" he also declares that they are also among the data which the strategist, naval as well as land, has to consider, because they are among the elements which determine the constitution and size of the fleet and the selection of naval bases.

There is one terse sentence that he gives that is illustrative of concentration of effort, and deserves more than anything else to be remembered by every man and officer. "A fleet is half beaten when it goes into battle with one eye upon something else than fighting."

Portolan Charts: their Origin and Characteristics, with a Descriptive List of those belonging to the Hispanic Society of America. By EDWARD LUTHER STEVENSON, Ph.D. (New York: The Hispanic Society. 1911. Pp. vii, 76.)

THE monograph by Professor Stevenson describes thirty-two portolan charts and atlases in the collection of the Hispanic Society of America,

dating from the early fifteenth century to the year 1650. It is illustrated by fifteen reproductions on a small scale, which give only a general idea of the appearance of such maps. The author, who is our best authority on early cartography, has preceded the full description of each chart by a short but interesting notice of the portolani in general. The study of cartography in the early period of map-making is unfortunately in this country very amateurish. Outside of the excellent work done by Professor Stevenson there is nothing published that is of any consequence. The scarcity of material to work upon may account for this neglect. It is to be hoped that this monograph may create an interest in maps both ancient and modern that in time may bring forth results on a par with the research of European scholars.

There are but two important works on the subject of the portolani, namely, Nordenskiöld's *Periplus*, and Kretschmer's *Die Italienischen Portolane*. All other works are merely incidental to the subject, or are special monographs on the various authors. The bibliography attached to this work could have been extended in the latter class to some extent. Bevilacqua, Canova, and Errera have written monographs on Ottomano Freducci; Staglieno on Vesconte de Maggiolo; Errera on Pietro Roselli; Winsor, Wieser, Kretschmer, Magnaghi, Malavialle, Gaffarel, and others, on Battista Agnese; Errera and Enrile on the Olives. All these cartographers have some of their maps described in this work.

The collection is numerically the largest one to be found in any private library. The Library of Congress, with its immense collection, has only three of these charts, the earliest by Cavallini being dated 1640. The earliest chart in the Hispanic Society collection is by Petrus Roselli, of 1468; the next in chronology is that of Vesconte de Maggiolo, 1512. The earliest portolano chart known with date is that of Petrus Vesconte of 1311, the "Carte Pisane" having only a supposed date. These charts do not number over five hundred previous to 1600, and are mostly found in the national libraries and museums of Europe.

The value of a collection of these charts is more or less dependent on their antiquity. The subject-matter, which is principally the Mediterranean and Black seas, has little interest to the American student outside of its importance in the development of the early hydrographical charts. Notwithstanding their number, these first charts seem to have a general prototype, which was corrected and added to until almost perfected. With their beautiful coloring, artistic drawing, and the antique make-up, a collection such as the one here described is of unusual interest.

Nansen in his recent work entitled *In Northern Mists* does not differentiate between the portolano charts and the compass charts. He says: "The remarkable thing is that the first known compass-charts, of the beginning of the fourteenth century, were already of so perfect a form that there was little to add to or improve on them in later time."

Beazley, in an article published in *Nature*, December 15, 1904, calls these portolano charts "the first true maps", and says: "Never better

than in these long-neglected charts does the history of civilization illustrate man's change from empirical to scientific, from traditional book-learning to the investigation of nature."

While it is most difficult to attach dates to these undated charts, Professor Stevenson would have added more value to his description if more positive statements could have been made, as, that a chart was after 1550, or 1560, early sixteenth century, or second half of sixteenth century. An authority on these maps, with some research, could no doubt greatly assist the student by more definite data.

The Hispanic Society can be congratulated on the attractive style in which this work has been introduced to the public.

P. LEE PHILLIPS.

Martin Luther: the Man and his Work. By ARTHUR CUSHMAN MCGIFFERT. (New York: The Century Company. 1911. Pp. xi, 397.)

THIS is a popular biography of Martin Luther written, in its original form, for the pages of the *Century Magazine*. It is strictly speaking a biography and not a *Life and Times of Martin Luther*. The author keeps strictly within the limits of his sub-title *The Man and his Work*. He wrote for the intelligent reader trained neither in history nor theology and he has not encumbered his pages with the reasons for his conclusions, nor darkened his statements of points of controversy by the use of terms remote from common language. But the discerning reader, even though he were ignorant of the name of the writer, would recognize the work of one who, knowing the literature of his subject, had skilfully weighed divergent opinions to produce a simple narrative with learned foundations not protruded on the view.

The book is enriched and made more enjoyable by sixty well-chosen full-page illustrations; thirty authentic portraits of contemporaries, friends or foes, six portraits of Luther himself, and the rest photographs of buildings or places.

The secret of the success of this book can be read in the words of the dedication to the author's wife, "whose insight and human sympathies have helped me to interpret one of the most human of the world's great men". It is because the writer sees this "vein of rich humanity" in Luther that he is not afraid to show him as he was, with all his blatant faults as clear as his great qualities. Mr. McGiffert has too much reverence for his hero to try to conceal anything about him.

Mr. McGiffert is free from the modern pretense of trying to write as if he were a typewriting machine endowed with reasoning faculties, and he has the first qualification for the task of writing in the field of church history—or indeed in the field of sixteenth-century history—a lack of zeal for the defense of any particular ecclesiastical system or organization. Therefore he has given us a sympathetic but not a